

STATE OF TEXAS           §  
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COUNTY OF WEBB       §

MARGIE R. IBARRA  
COUNTY CLERK  
FILED  
2020 MAR 23 PM 3:14  
WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS  
BY \_\_\_\_\_ DEPUTY

**EMERGENCY ORDER  
WEBB COUNTY JUDGE AND COMMISSIONERS COURT  
CONTINUING EMERGENCY MEASURES  
DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)  
Effective March 23, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, by proclamation issued March 16, 2020, the County Judge declared a state of disaster for Webb County resulting from:

Coronavirus disease, also referred to COVID-19 has been confirmed in Webb County. Therefore, it is necessary to take action to prevent further opportunity for COVID-19 to spread in our community.

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States has declared COVID-19 a National Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Texas has declared a state of disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency measures be taken pursuant to the Executive Order of the Governor Relating to Emergency Management; and

**WHEREAS**, additional restrictions are warranted; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Tano E. Tijerina, County Judge for the County of Webb, do hereby certify that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster; and

**DO HEREBY, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 418, ORDER:**

The following regulations shall take effect immediately upon issuance, and shall remain in effect until the state of disaster is terminated:

**1. STATE AND FEDERAL GUIDANCE:**

The Emergency Management Director or designee is authorized to update, restrict and promulgate regulations necessary to comply with Federal, State, and Local authorities' guidance in relation to COVID-19.

## 2. MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND OCCUPANCY OF PREMISES

- a. Restaurants are limited to take out or drive-through service only (designed to limit exposure between individuals); dine in service is hereby prohibited.
- b. All holders of a wine and beer retailer's permit or mixed beverage permit (collectively "bars") shall close common bar spaces open to the public and are hereby prohibited from allowing consumption of alcohol on the bar premises.
- c. All of the following facilities shall close to the public while this order is in effect:
- d. Bars, lounges, and private clubs;
- e. Fitness centers and gyms;
- f. Bingos and amusement redemption centers;
- g. Reception halls and party rental places;
- h. Enclosed malls; and
- i. Entertainment facilities such as bowling alleys, movie theatres, etc.
- j. All public and private parks, pools, splash parks, water parks, golf courses, recreational centers, soccer fields, tennis courts, football and baseball fields, tracks, hike, bike and walking trails, and any other recreational facilities.
- k. Limit gatherings to 10 persons or less.
  - i. "Gatherings" is defined as:
  - ii. Any event or convening subject to the exceptions and clarifications below that brings together or is likely to bring together (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or space. For clarity, this includes, but is not limited to, weddings, religious gatherings, parties, funerals, sporting events, social events, conferences, and other large gatherings.
  - iii. "Gathering" **does not include** the following spaces where 10 or more persons may congregate, so long as visitors are generally not within arm's length of one another for extended periods:
    - Grocery stores, hardware stores;
    - Office space, residential buildings, and hotels, etc.;
    - Pharmacies, hospitals, medical facilities, and veterinary facilities;



Spaces where person may be in transit or waiting for transit such as airports and bus terminals;

Public or private gatherings of no more than 10 people in a single enclosed space including businesses where people are present, but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods; and

Hospitals and medical offices and facilities.

- l. These Regulations shall not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces (including separate cubicles) in a single building such as school classrooms, different floors of a multi-level office, residential building or hotel, so long as 10 people are not present in any single space at the same time.
- m. This Order also does not prohibit the use of enclosed spaces where 10 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 10 or more people are not present in the space at the same time.
- n. It is recommended that all individuals practice social distancing which is defined by the CDC as remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings and maintaining a distance of approximately 6 feet from others when possible.
- o. All County boards, committees, and commissions shall not meet until further notice.
- p. All nonessential County facilities shall be closed, except as determined by the County Judge for community benefit during the disaster.
- q. Everyone, especially older population and at-risk categories are encouraged to self-quarantine as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.
- r. Business and places of employment shall have safety protocols in place such as hand sanitizers and temperature measuring stations to ensure employees do not become vectors of COVID-19 while this ordinance is in effect.
- s. Businesses are urged to implement the Centers for Disease Control guidelines for business operations:
  - i. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html> and
  - ii. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>

### **3. HEALTHCARE FACILITIES**

- a. All healthcare facilities are instructed to implement sanitation and screening measures such as providing all employees and visitors access to hand sanitizer and disinfecting products.
- b. Healthcare facilities must symptom check all employees and visitors and may not allow individuals into the facilities who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, unless they are patients. Anyone who is suspected or confirmed as COVID-19 positive shall be reported to the Health Department.
- c. Healthcare facilities must prominently display “Help Prevent Disease” signs provided by the City of Laredo Health Department.
- d. Healthcare facilities include hospitals, doctor’s offices, clinics, 24 hour care emergency room facilities, mental care facilities, etc.

### **4. UTILITIES & RENTALS**

- a. No local utility shall discontinue the provision of cable, internet, water, gas, waste removal, and electric utility services to a local resident for lack of payment while this ordinance is in effect, to the extent allowed by law.
- b. To the extent allowed by the law, no landlord shall evict a tenant for lack of payment while this order is in effect.
- c. To the extent allowed by the law business that lease or rent for social gatherings are prohibited from charging fees for changing dates for canceled events.

### **5. PUBLIC TRANSIT**

El Aguila is required to keep spacing requirements imposed for social distancing purposes, must keep windows open for ventilation and maintain sanitization of the buses as needed.

### **6. PRICE CONTROLS**

- a. A person shall not sell any of the following goods or services for more than the price the person charged for the goods or services on March 16, 2020:
  - i. groceries, beverages, toilet articles, ice
  - ii. construction and building materials and supplies, and earthmoving equipment and machinery
  - iii. electrical and gas generating and transmission equipment, parts and



accessories

- iv. charcoal briquettes, matches, candles, lamp illumination and heat unit carbides, dry batteries, light bulbs, flashlights, and hand lanterns
- v. hand tools (manual and power), hardware and household supplies, and equipment rental
- vi. Medical supplies that are required to maintain and individuals health such as diabetes, asthma, bronchitis, pain medication, epinephrine and other medication that treats or maintains the health of an individual that may lead to further medical crisis or illness that is caused directly or indirectly from being immunocompromised.
- vii. automotive parts, supplies, and accessories
- viii. plumbing and electrical tools and supplies
- ix. apartment, duplex, multi-family dwelling, rooming house, hotel and motel rental
- x. gasoline, diesel oil, motor oil, kerosene, grease, and automotive lubricants
- xi. restaurant, cafeteria, and boarding-house meals
- xii. services of roofing and building contractors, plumbers, electricians, mechanics, tree surgeons, and automobile wrecker companies
- xiii. medicine, pharmaceutical, and medical equipment and supplies
- xiv. blankets, quilts, bedspreads, bed linens, mattresses, bedsprings, bedsteads, towels, and toilet paper
- xv. furniture and clothing

## **7. EMERGENCY**

- a. These regulations shall take effect immediately.
- b. These regulations will continue unless they are rescinded, superseded, or amended by future action or expire by operation or law.

## **8. ENFORCEMENT**

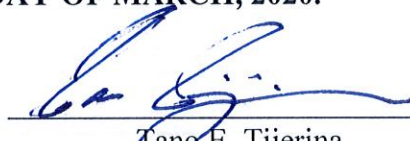
The Webb County Sheriff, the Webb County Fire Chief and other certified peace officers are hereby authorized to enforce this order. A violation is a misdemeanor


punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days.

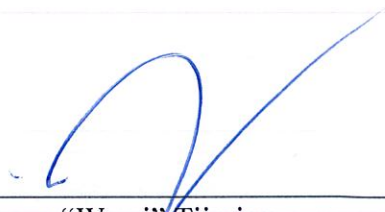
## 9. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

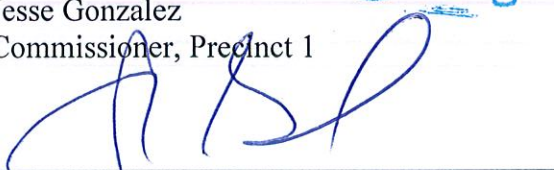
- a. It is hereby declared that the phrases, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance are severable. If any part of this order shall be declared to be unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining phrases, sentences, paragraphs and sections.
- b. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a state of disaster for a public health emergency shall be given prompt general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk of Webb County.

ORDERED THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

  
Tano E. Tijerina  
Webb County Judge


  
Jesse Gonzalez  
Commissioner, Precinct 1

  
Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina  
Commissioner, Precinct 2

  
John Galo  
Commissioner, Precinct 3

  
Cindy Liendo  
Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:  
Mergie Ramirez Ibarra  
Webb County Clerk

By: 



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nathan R. Bratton", is written over a horizontal line.

Nathan R. Bratton

General Counsel

Civil Legal Division\*

\*The General Counsel, Civil Legal Division's office, may only advise or approve contracts or legal documents on behalf Webb County, its client. It may not advise or approve a contract or legal document on behalf of other parties. Our review of this document was conducted solely from the legal perspective of our client. Our approval of this document was offered solely for the benefit of our client. Other parties should not rely on this approval, and should seek review and approval of their own respective attorney(s).